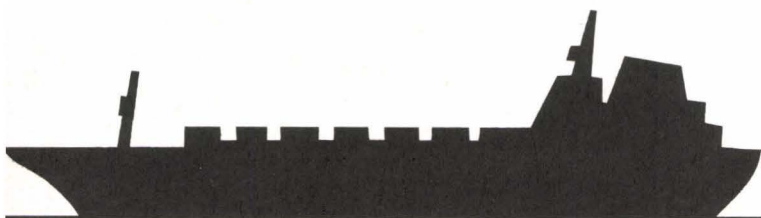


European Community

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May 1977

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Britain's EEC trade
improves



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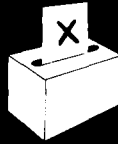
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Contents

Politics



The Rome Summit

On March 25 and 26 the Heads of State and Government celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome and also looked ahead.
pp. 3-5

Science & Technology



The JET project

Anatomy of an overdue decision.
pp. 12-14

News



The month in Europe

President Jenkins received by President Carter. pp. 6-7

Dossier



Dossier

More Community news. p. 15

Report



Britain's EEC trade improves – again

In 1976, Britain's trade deficit with the rest of the world continued, but with the EEC it fell. pp. 8-9

Economic Affairs



Anti-dumping legislation

Protection against dumping will continue under Community law.
p. 16

Social Affairs



Full employment by 1980?

The Commission's cautious look ahead. pp. 10-11

The Community in May

May 3

Foreign Affairs Council

May 9-13

European Parliament

May 16+17

Finance Council

June 13-17

European Parliament

June 15 or 17

Environment Council

June 20

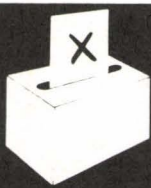
Finance Council

June 20+21

Agriculture Council

June 21

Foreign Affairs Council



The Rome summit

The European Council commemorated the Treaties signature and looked ahead

Meeting in Rome on March 25-27, 1977, the European Council of Heads of Government of the Nine did more than commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the Rome Treaties, signed in 1957 to bring into being the European Economic Community and Euratom.

True, commemorative speeches were made. One of them, by the Mayor of Rome, even suggested that things were worse for the Community now than on the tenth anniversary, in 1967. Those who remembered its situation at that time — with the 1965 crisis still rankling, with Britain and other countries still excluded, with the customs union still not complete — found it hard to agree. And if today the Community still faces a far more severe economic situation than at any time since the Thirties, this makes its members' solidarity more essential, not less.

The London 'summit'

Some of the European Council's time was spent debating how the Nine would be represented at the Western 'economic summit' in London. It was finally agreed that, in addition to the four member States (Britain, France, Germany, and Italy) present at the London meeting, the President of the Council of Ministers and the President of the

Commission would be invited to take part in those sessions at which Community topics were discussed.

European Foundation

On the 'European Foundation' proposed in the Tindemans Report, the Commission, with the agreement of the European Council, and taking account of existing organizations and institutions, is to study the possibility of making significant progress with a view to setting the new Foundation up.

North-South talks

On the North-South dialogue, the European Council agreed on the basis of a common position, including where appropriate commodity price stabilization agreements and a common fund, as well as a study of export earnings stabilization.

Economy, steel, Japan

The major published statements of the European Council were on growth, inflation, and unemployment; the situation in the steel sector; and relations with Japan. The respective texts were as follows:

Statement On Growth, Inflation And Employment

1 The European Council considered the prospects for economic development within the Community and

agreed that, in order to promote sustained economic recovery and mitigate the severe unemployment being experienced in member countries, without risking the renewal of inflation, there is a need for intensified co-operation at the Community as well as the international level.

2 The European Council recognized that such action must in large part be undertaken on a world scale in which the Community has an important role to play. In this connection they noted first that Community Finance Ministers have reached a large measure of agreement on the views they will put forward on international financing problems at the meeting of the IMF Interim Committee in Washington at the end of April, and secondly that ways of encouraging a stronger, but still balanced, growth of world economic activity will be a major theme of the London Summit in early May.

3 The European Council further agreed in particular to seek action at the Community level in three directions: first to promote measures to help resolve specific labour market problems, especially in improving training and employment opportunities for young people and women; secondly, to encourage higher levels of investment in the member States; and thirdly, to halt divergence and promote convergence in their economic performance. To this end, the European Council invites on the one hand the Commission, in particular by the better use of Community instruments, and on the other hand the Board of Governors of the European Investment Bank to seek ways of improving the effectiveness of their activities.

4 The European Council emphasized the importance of co-operation between the social partners in these matters and has agreed to the holding of a further tripartite conference in the first half of this year, at a date to be agreed, at which progress and possibilities could be reviewed. The European Council agreed to reconsider progress on this range of problems at its own projected meeting in June.

5 The European Council agreed to conduct at its meeting at the end of the year an examination of the results obtained in the fields of growth, employment and the fight against inflation, and to assess the Community's prospects of making progress towards Economic and Monetary Union.

Statement by the European Council on Relations with Japan

The European Council, recalling its statement of November 30, 1976, ☐ reaffirms the importance it attaches to maintaining good relations between the Community and Japan;

☐ notes that some progress has been made over the past four months towards resolving certain specific trade problems;

☐ observes however that not all the problems have yet been solved and considers that efforts have to be continued particularly with a view to the sustained expansion of exports from the Community to Japan;

☐ invites accordingly the responsible Community Institutions to continue the intensive discussions with the Japanese authorities with the aim of resolving outstanding difficulties as rapidly as possible.

Declaration On The Situation In The Steel Sector

The European Council has considered the situation in the steel sector, on the basis of a communication from the Commission. This sector is experiencing a depression more serious than at any time in the history of the Coal and Steel Community. The Heads of State and Heads of Government have taken this opportunity to reaffirm their resolve to restore to the steel industry through the appropriate measures, the viability and competitiveness essential to the maintenance of a

truly European industrial potential.

The European Council expresses its appreciation of the efforts being undertaken by the Commission to put forward at an early date practical proposals and initiatives for short term remedial measures to stabilize the market, for a longer term structural reorganization of the European steel industry and for measures in the social field to assist workers adversely affected by such reorganization. The European Council expresses the wish that the Council of Ministers gives its urgent attention to the Commission's proposals and initiatives on these issues.

Quote of the month

'I am firmly convinced that individually we would not have withstood the storms of world economic development — that is, the crisis that began in 1973 — at all. Each country alone would have been sucked into catastrophe. Even the Federal Republic of Germany would barely have been able to withstand the development. So it is that we must agree it was indeed well that twenty years ago we founded the European Community.'

Walter Scheel, President of the Federal Republic of Germany



The European Council at its Rome meeting



The month in Europe

Jenkins sees Carter

At the invitation of US President, Jimmy Carter, Roy Jenkins, President of the Commission of the European Communities, visited Washington on April 18 and 19, 1977. It was his first official visit to the US since his appointment as Commission President.

Colombo heads Parliament

Emilio Colombo, a Christian-Democrat former Prime Minister of Italy, was elected President of the European Parliament on March 8, 1977, in succession to Georges Spénale. Signor Colombo is a familiar and much-admired figure in Community circles, where as a Minister he has been involved in the negotiation, implementation, and enlargement of the EEC.

Euratom loans

On March 29, 1977, the Council gave the green light to the Commission's plan to raise Euratom loans to help finance nuclear power stations. On the same day, it was announced that 5 million units of account (just over £2 million) will be available from Euratom to support a new uranium prospection drive throughout the Community. But there was still no agreement on the site of the JET (See page 12).

Portugal applies

On March 28, 1977, Portugal presented its official request to join the European Communities. This followed the visit to Brussels on March 12 by Mario Soares, the Portuguese Prime Minister.

Lebanon agreement

The Community initialled a comprehensive co-operation with Lebanon on February 16, 1977. This completes its bilateral agreements with the Mashreq countries under its Mediterranean policy. The new agreement, like those with Egypt, Syria, and Jordan, covers economic, technical, and financial co-operation; export promotion; industrial, scientific, and technical co-operation; and encouragement of private investment. It also provides for Community financial aid of 30 million units of account, including 8 million in loans, and free trade in industrial products except for cotton fabrics and phosphate products. An association council provides a forum for discussion, and the agreement is to be reviewed in 1979 and 1984.

EEC — NZ

Mr Robert Muldoon, Prime Minister of New Zealand, visited the Commission on March 28-29, 1977, in the course of a tour of European

capitals. Among other things, he discussed NZ exports to the Community. At present special arrangements for NZ butter sales to the UK run until 1980, but New Zealand would like higher prices. For sheepmeat, the Commission is pledged to consult New Zealand once its own ideas on a common market organization are clear. Since 1974, there have also been regular annual consultations.

Lawyers freer

On March 22, 1977, the Council agreed on a Directive to facilitate lawyers' freedom to supply services throughout the Community. Within two years, the Community's 125,000 lawyers should therefore be free to defend their clients' interests in any member State. They will have to comply with local codes of conduct, and may have to work in conjunction with a colleague practising at the court in question. So far, however, the right of establishment has not been granted, though it is the aim.

Vocational training centre

The new Berlin premises of the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training at 22 Bundesallee, were recently opened by Henk Vredeling, Commission Vice-President responsible for employment and social affairs, together with Klaus Schultz, the Mayor of Berlin, and Jean Degimbe of the Commission staff. The Berlin Senate contributed to the cost of the building.

Cognac v. whisky

Following changes in the French tax levied on different spirits, which appears to favour cognac at the expense of whisky, the Commission is pursuing its procedure aimed at restoring fair competition, and may

if necessary go as far as the European Court.

Euro-bread, Euro-beer junked

In a mixed bag of withdrawn Commission proposals, ancient plans for Euro-bread and Euro-beer were officially jettisoned earlier this year when the Official Journal listed 36 such cancellations. They range from efforts to achieve mutual recognition of pharmacists' qualifications to plans for the approximation of laws on mayonnaise sauces. Their jettisoning was one of the last acts of the previous Commission.

Zip code?

A 'multinational' European Parliamentary Question from Messrs. Albers, Amadei, Gerlach, Guerlin, and Mrs Dunwoody elicited the information that the Commission is keeping a constant and very close watch on the market and trade situation in zip-fasteners, where Japanese competition has had a substantial impact.

More cash for UK

Recent grants and loans to the UK include:

- ☐ £167,496 to help ten miscellaneous research projects;
- ☐ £670,000 loaned to the National Coal Board to help build a new training centre and expand laboratories at Stanhope Bretby, near Burton-on-Trent;
- ☐ £14 million loaned by the European Investment Bank to British Steel for processing plant at the Ravenraig Works, Motherwell, Scotland. This brings to £122.85 million the Bank's loans to British Steel for modernization and expansion projects, all in problem areas of the UK.



Britain's EEC trade improves

Exports up, deficit down in 1976

Last year saw the first improvement in the UK's visible trade balance with the rest of the EEC since 1970. The deficit fell by £271 million between 1975 and 1976, to £2,077 million. Exports grew half as fast again as imports over this period, by 44 per cent against 29 per cent. The value of exports was 81 per cent of the value of imports, the highest proportion since 1972.

These are the main conclusions of a study recently published by the British Government's weekly *Trade and Industry* (March 25, 1977). This improvement in the UK's visible trade balance with her Community partners in 1976 was in contrast to the worsening of nearly £400 million in the balance with the world in total (despite a slightly faster rate of growth in exports than imports). This worsening was caused mainly by a sharp reduction in the trading surplus with the 'rest of the world' group (comprising the developing countries other than the oil exporting countries, and the centrally planned economies). There was also however a deterioration of nearly £150 million in the trading deficit with North America. The proportion of exports to imports with North America in 1976 was, at 79 per cent, smaller than the proportion of exports to imports with the rest of the EEC, for

the first year since 1971.

The main changes between 1975 and 1976 have been improvements in crude trade balances for fuels and the 'other semi-manufactures' group, partly offset by increased deficits in chemicals and machinery and transport equipment.

Fuels

Over 95 per cent of the UK's trade in fuels with the Community consists of trade in petroleum and petroleum products. The improvement of £100 million between 1975 and 1976 in the crude trade deficit in this commodity was the result of a 74 per cent increase in exports, and a rise of 27 per cent in imports. Part of the rise in exports was due to an increase in crude oil exports from £20 million in 1975 to £96 million last year.

Manufactured goods

After falling between 1974 and 1975, the crude deficit with the rest of the EEC in plastics increased again in 1976. Sharply higher levels of both exports and imports reflected the increase in economic activity from the very depressed 1975 level. While the deficit was little different last year from its 1974 level, the value of exports in 1976 was 61 per cent of the value of imports, while in 1974 the corresponding proportion was 43 per cent.

UK balance of trade with rest of EEC

Balance of payments basis

Percentage change on previous period

	£ million			Per cent
	Exports fob	Imports fob	Visible balance	Exports as a proportion of imports
1970	2,348	2,304	+ 44	101.9
1971	2,512 (+ 7)	2,697 (+ 17)	—185	93.1
1972	2,836 (+ 13)	3,421 (+ 27)	—585	82.9
1973	3,943 (+ 39)	5,108 (+ 49)	—1,165	77.2
1974	5,565 (+ 41)	7,571 (+ 48)	—2,006	73.5
1975	6,258 (+ 12)	8,606 (+ 14)	—2,348	72.7
1976	9,007 (+ 44)	11,084 (+ 29)	—2,077	81.3

UK balance of trade by area

Balance of payments basis

£ million

	Other EEC	Rest of Western Europe	North America	Other developed countries	Oil exporters	Rest of world	Total
1970	+ 44	+ 179	—484	+ 149	—113	+ 200	—25
1971	—185	+ 118	—171	+ 223	—188	+ 483	+ 280
1972	—585	—37	—79	—154	—131	+ 284	—702
1973	—1,165	—277	—278	—202	—329	—83	—2,334
1974	—2,006	—358	—711	+ 93	—2,219	—20	—5,221
1975	—2,348	—60	—676	—19	—704	+ 612	—3,195
1976	—2,077	—16	—822	—6	—709	+ 38	—3,592

Crude trade balance with rest of EEC by commodity

OTS basis

£ million

SITC(R) section	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976
0 Food and live animals	—498	—699	—1,220	—1,470	—1,424
1 Beverages and tobacco	—50	—111	—86	—66	—73
2 Basic materials	+ 28	+ 2	+ 10	+ 28	—14
3 Fuels	—102	—105	—251	—313	—227
4 Vegetable oils	—11	—13	—32	—30	—30
5 Chemicals	—14	—33	—107	—6	—76
6 Other semi-manufactures	+ 147	+ 182	—142	—184	+ 110
7 Machinery and transport equipment	—73	—321	—262	—229	—398
8 Other manufactures	—34	—103	—127	—127	—88
9 Other goods	+ 27	+ 27	+ 20	+ 27	—2
Total	—580	—1,172	—2,196	—2,369	—2,222
Crude balance in some of the major commodities:					
Meat	—187	—238	—329	—310	—336
Dairy produce	—103	—119	—259	—412	—324
Cereals	—49	—128	—284	—261	—360
Fruit and vegetables	—79	—99	—129	—171	—211
Sugar	+ 2	—3	—68	—152	—58
Petroleum and petroleum products	—90	—105	—270	—343	—243
Plastics	—37	—62	—143	—61	—132
Iron and steel	—29	—73	—293	—312	—315
Precious stones	+ 78	+ 185	+ 184	+ 146	+ 289
Machinery	—16	—229	—202	—189	—277
Road motor vehicles	—104	—125	—94	—96	—238

The crude trade balance — (exports fob less imports cif) is not a good measure of the balance of trade in goods because *inter alia* of difference in valuation.



Full employment— ment by 1980?

Community policy for the next four years

The main concern of the Community over the next four years is to restore full employment by 1980. This is the primary objective of the fourth Economic Policy Programme prepared by the Commission in consultation with both sides of industry and adopted by the Council of Ministers on February 14, 1977.

The Council accepted that to achieve this objective there must be a minimum steady annual growth rate of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of 4.5-5 per cent in the Community, and a determination to bring down the rate of inflation in all member States to 4-5 per cent by 1980 at the latest.

Within these global Community targets, a policy to achieve full employment will require, *inter alia*:

☐ a balanced growth policy aided by adequate investment;

☐ a sustained effort by both sides of industry to restrain the growth of incomes within overall GDP growth (in this context professional people and the better-paid will need, to a greater extent than before, to take into account the interests of the public as a whole);

☐ a better balance between labour supply and demand;

☐ an improved social consensus based on increased worker participation in decision-making, and a

greater degree of justice in the distribution of income, wealth and taxation;

☐ greater co-ordination and convergence of the economies of the member States.

Gloomy Background

The document points out that the background to this fourth programme is very different from that prevailing when the three earlier ones were drawn up. The Community's economies were then operating in a world economy which seemed assured of continued growth, with all that implied for prospects of integration and better standards of living for all Community citizens.

The next few years are crucial to the Community's future. The situation is made more difficult because to restore full employment in the medium-term productive investment must take precedence over consumption expenditure, and particularly private consumption. This must inevitably mean — at least temporarily — some reduction in people's private standards of living and material aspirations. Thus, unless the Community's overall economic strategy is right, and can be seen to be right, social tensions are likely to increase in the member States.

Policy Guidelines

For the purposes of the programme the document assumes an unadjusted average growth of 8-8.5 per cent a year in the volume of world imports, and that the GDP price index for the main OECD countries will rise by only 7-8 per cent a year.

However, the document notes that the recession has done considerable damage to productive capacity in the last two years. Hence, a simple expansion of aggregate demand is unlikely to achieve the necessary increase in growth to remove unemployment.

In addition, once the Community economy begins to expand, the deficit of the oil-importing countries will again worsen and competitive devaluations between them to 're-distribute' the deficit could exacerbate inflation and unemployment. For these and other reasons the Community only anticipates an actual mean growth rate in the Community of 4-4.5 per cent, with Italy, the UK, and Ireland having difficulty in achieving even this target.

Lack of sufficient growth may mean *unemployment* remaining high for some time ahead. This will be aggravated by the trend increase in the number of school-leavers and women seeking work and, until after 1980, fewer people eligible for early retirement. From 1980-85 on, shifts in the birth-rate will reverse the trend.

Using Resources

The burden of growth, the document suggests, should rest in the medium term on the expansion of exports, to avoid deficit balance of payments. This must mean a sharp cut in private consumption, in Italy, the UK and Ireland — the countries with the severest balance of payments problems, but to some extent also by all Community countries.

Between 1970 and 1975, the rise in wage and salary costs was more than 9 per cent above the rise in the general level of prices, and the adjusted ratio of wages to GDP had risen from 52.5 to 57.5 per cent. Furthermore, the rate of growth of public expenditure which rose steeply in several countries between 1970 and 1975 poses difficult economic choices in the current situation.

Community Strategy

The document emphasizes again and again that the Community's present economic structural and social problems can only be solved by a return to steady economic growth.

The main elements of the strategy required to achieve this growth are:

- ☐ The establishment of an industrial consensus between employers, trade unions and governments on policies at national and at European level to achieve growth and economic stability and on the social and economic content of that growth;
- ☐ Stricter and steadier management of monetary and credit policy;
- ☐ A close co-ordination of these policies at Community level to reduce harmful divergencies; the avoidance of too high expectations in the provision of public goods which are then impossible to satisfy, and the elimination of costly policies in the public sector which are no longer justified;
- ☐ Promotion of productive investment and a slackening, in the short term, of private consumption;
- ☐ Introduction of specific employment and manpower policies.

Implementation of the strategy will, of course, take different forms in the member States, but the document pleads for much greater co-ordination and co-operation between them than has been apparent so far.



The JET project

Background to an overdue decision

The Council, meeting on March 29, 1977, once more failed to agree on the site for Europe's fusion research project.

'JET' stands for Joint European Torus. It is the centrepiece in European Community plans to try to tap a new source of energy: fusion — the source of energy of the sun. Unlike fission, splitting the nuclei of heavy atoms like uranium, fusion involves smelting together light atoms like hydrogen. If fusion can be made to work, major benefits will follow.

In particular there will be no fear that fuel will run out, as there is with fossil fuels such as oil. The key elements needed for fusion are deuterium and lithium, found throughout the world in virtually inexhaustible quantities.

The road to fusion energy is very long. Most experts believe it will take some decades of work. But there is agreement in all Community countries that the prize is well worth pursuing.

The Commission has been promoting common action here since the birth of Euratom in 1958. Its role has been to coordinate work in different fusion laboratories, to provide additional staff, and to contribute finance.

If fusion research is to advance, then JET must be built. Yet the pro-

ject will be of such size and cost that no member State could easily meet the requirements on its own. Hence JET is ideal for a Community effort.

With this in mind a Working Group was formed in 1971 which prepared various concepts for JET and compared technology and cost. In 1973, the Council agreed that a Project Team be established to design JET. This team, made up of experts from the laboratories of all member States, was quickly assembled and hosted at the Culham Laboratory, England. It produced its final design proposal in 1975 — including detailed cost estimates and planning schedules.

Delay

Why then has JET been delayed?

The reason has been disagreement in the Council of Ministers on where to put it.

In 1974 a Site Committee was set up: composed of members nominated by fusion laboratories in member States chaired by a Commission representative and assisted by experts from the JET design team. This body held eight meetings between April 1974, and February 1975. In May 1974, it sent a questionnaire on site requirements to each partner and by September had before it the candidature of the following possible sites:

- ☐ Cadarache in France
- ☐ Jülich and Garching in Germany
- ☐ Ispra, an establishment of the Community Joint Research Centre in Italy
- ☐ Mol in Belgium
- ☐ Culham in the UK.

Plasma

A fundamental problem of fusion is that the pairs of nuclei in the elements forming the fuel naturally repel one another. Fusion can only occur if the nuclei are hurled at one another with great energy. To produce these collisions the fuel must be heated to temperatures of 100 million degrees and more. Such temperature means the fuel becomes a special kind of gas called a plasma. It also means that no normal container could hold the plasma. Its walls would melt and the plasma would cool down.

Fortunately, the plasma is not composed of neutral atoms but of electrically charged particles (electrons and ions) which are subject to the action of magnetic fields. This makes possible the confinement of plasmas in 'magnetic containers'.

Scientists have long been probing how magnetic fields could be used to keep the plasma together and stop it from touching the container walls. Many models have been tried. In the last five years research in Europe concentrated on the so-called 'closed configuration' system in which the plasma is kept in a doughnut-shaped vessel called a torus. The Soviet Union had been working on the 'closed configuration' system called Tokamak since the early 1960's and had achieved the first good results. Several Tokamak devices have been built in the associated laboratories

of the Community Fusion Programme and performances have been largely improved. The limit had been reached at which performances cannot be further improved without building a much larger Tokamak than the present generation ones. JET will be a large-scale Tokamak.

Large-scale

The aim of JET is essentially to produce and to study a plasma in conditions as close as possible to those needed in a thermonuclear reactor. In such a reactor, fusion reactions should of course produce more energy than is spent to heat the plasma. This is possible if the density of the plasma is great enough and the time it is kept burning inside its magnetic container is sufficiently long. Magnetic containers are not absolutely impermeable to the plasma: it diffuses through the 'magnetic wall' of the container, losing some of its density and reducing the time it is kept burning. In order to limit this diffusion effect, the 'magnetic wall' must be made as 'thick' as possible, which takes a large space. Existing Tokamaks are too small for this purpose, which is one reason why their performances are limited and it is necessary to build a larger device such as JET.

Another reason is the self-heating effect of the burning fuel. In a thermonuclear reactor, fusion reactions between deuterium and tritium produce both fast neutrons (14 MeV), which carry a large amount of useful energy, and energy-charged particles (3.5 MeV alpha-particles) which help heat the fuel itself and keep it burning. To heat the fuel, these charged particles must also be kept within the magnetic container, and because they are highly energetic the container has to be large.

Hot doughnut

As in all Tokamaks, the plasma of JET is ring-shaped and is produced in a torus-shaped vacuum vessel. It is confined by a magnetic field which is the combination of the toroidal field produced by a set of toroidal field coils which link the torus, and the weaker poloidal field produced by the current flowing in the plasma.

This plasma current is induced by a transformer, of which the plasma is the secondary winding. The primary winding of the transformer and the subsidiary equilibrium coils, which give the fine control of the position and shape of the plasma, are called poloidal field coils. The current induced in the plasma plays also the important role of heating the plasma by ohmic effect. This heating is however not sufficient to bring the plasma to the high temperatures envisaged. Additional heating will therefore be provided by injection of energetic neutral atoms into the plasma, by radio frequency heating and by adiabatic compression of the plasma obtained by increasing the magnetic field.

The device will be operated by means of a centralised control system. The control circuit and measuring devices will be linked by computers, which will provide fast feedback control and assist in analysis.

A pilot plant

With JET, scientists will be able to study plasma in conditions much closer than hitherto possible to those needed in a thermonuclear reactor. The experiments will be performed with a plasma which will not contain the elements necessary to produce fusion reactions. Finally, if these experiments are successful, a plasma will be produced with a

deuterium-tritium mixture and thermonuclear fusion reactions will be observed.

There are three other projects in the world which can be compared with JET. One is bigger — the Soviet T-20. Two have a smaller volume but a higher magnetic field than JET. They are the TFTR in the United States and the JT-60 in Japan. A successful completion of these projects does not mean that a fusion reactor is just around the corner. Even if JET gave the best possible results, at least two more complex and costly stages will be needed before fusion energy becomes a reality. It could well be a competitive energy source in the early twenty-first century.

Proposal

After the report of the JET design team, the Commission proposed that JET construction go ahead in the Community's fourth five-year fusion programme (1976-1980).

Assessment

Because of the size, complexity and cost of JET, the Commission and the member States agreed to a wholly independent appraisal of it. This job was given in May 1975 to the Engineering Division of the Reactor Group of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority, which produced a report discussing in detail all the elements of the project.

A Consultative Committee for Fusion (CCF) composed of senior officials of the Governments concerned has also been set up to advise the Commission on the subject. In its unanimous report, the CCF strongly recommended that JET be built as proposed and urged the Council of Ministers to take all necessary decisions.



Soon we are 52

On March 28, the Community signed agreements with Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Cape Verde, and Papua-New Guinea, for their accession to the Lomé Convention. After ratification, this will bring the total number of ACP countries to 52. The Second Joint ACP/EEC Council of Ministers was held at Suva, in Fiji, on April 13 and 14, with Mr Edmund Dell, UK Secretary of State for Trade, in the chair.

Bank help for Tanzania

The European Investment Bank has agreed to provide 2.5 million units of account (23.3 million Tanzania shillings) to help Tanzanian industrial development, by purchasing convertible bonds issued by the Tanganyika Development Finance Company Ltd.

Insulation competition

Under Commission patronage, the International Federation for Housing and Planning is holding a competition for better thermal insulation technology, open to manufacturers, merchants, and installers throughout Europe. Architects, engineers, and technicians may also take part in association with firms. Details from: International Competition Manager, 108 avenue du 10 septembre, Luxembourg.

The SPD and Europe

The European Policy of the SPD is the title of a new study by Juliet Lodge, Lecturer in political studies at the University of Auckland, NZ, and currently a Visiting Fellow at the LSE. It is published by Sage Publications, Ltd., in a series sponsored by the Graduate School of Contemporary European Studies at Reading University.

Europe since 1945

This is the title of a new 88-page booklet by Fraser Cameron, published by Edward Arnold at £1.50. As a summary of European history and a conspectus of future possible developments, it should prove useful to schools and teachers as well as to more general audiences. It is abundantly illustrated.

Less Brussels bump

'Documents must be made shorter' is the crisp instruction recently issued to Commission Directors-General and Heads of Department. The Commission is concerned, among other things, about the burden placed on typing, translation, and reproduction services. It also aims at making documents better planned and better summarized.



Anti-dumping: no danger

Community law fully to replace British measures

'There will be no reduction in the protection available to British industry as a result of the transfer of power in the anti-dumping field at the end of the transition period on June 30, 1977.'

This opinion was given by the Commission in reply to a question in the European Parliament by European MP Mr Tom Normanton. He was asking about the effect on Britain of becoming subject to Community anti-dumping legislation from the middle of this year instead of relying on her own laws.

The Commission assured Mr Normanton that both British legislation and Community law are based on the GATT Anti-dumping Code and that the relatively short time scale within which complaints are dealt with by the Commission is approximately the same as that which applies in the UK. Furthermore, any cases still under investigation at June 30, 1977, can be taken over smoothly by the Commission. This, it was noted, had happened without any problems when the original member States adopted the relevant Community Regulation in 1968.

Community Law

The Regulation, which covers not only dumping but the granting of bounties or subsidies by countries which are not members of the EEC, was introduced as part of the Treaty

obligations to ensure fair competition.

A product is considered to have been dumped 'if the price of the product when exported to the Community is less than the comparable price, in the ordinary course of trade of the like product... when destined for consumption in the exporting country of origin'.

Both the GATT Anti-dumping Code and the Community Regulation provide for anti-dumping measures to be taken if there is injury to a Community industry, either the entire industry or a major proportion of it. Furthermore, both measures expressly recognize that, in certain circumstances, it may be necessary to act in defence of the industry in a region of the Community, thus ensuring considerable flexibility to deal with all problems.

A determination of injury must be based on fact and not on allegations, but industries suffering from dumping have the option of either approaching member States directly or making their problems known to the Commission in the first place, which will give all possible advice and help.

If a preliminary examination provides sufficient evidence of injury from dumping, the Commission, on its own initiative, can impose a provisional but compulsory anti-dumping duty on the product, which must later be confirmed or amended by the Council.